2

Claims: Claims 11-21 have been provisionally elected for prosecution with traverse. Upon entry of this provisional election, claims 1-10 will be withdrawn from consideration and claims 11-21 will be pending.

1. (withdrawn) A method for forming an image, comprising:
locating a manual imaging device adjacent to an object;
receiving a signal in the manual imaging device;
determining a position of the manual imaging device relative to a reference location using the signal; and
forming the image on the object while parameters related to the manual imaging device equal or exceed minimum criteria.

2.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
generating the signal before receiving the signal.

3.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein:
forming the image on the object includes determining if the parameters equal or exceed the minimum criteria.

4.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein:
the signal includes a first signal component, a second signal component, and a third signal component with the first, second, and third signal component each corresponding to one of three spatial dimensions.

5.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein:
determining the position of the manual imaging device includes computing a first position component, a second position component, and a third position component using the first signal component, the second signal component, and the third signal component, with the first, second, and third position component each corresponding to one of the three spatial dimensions.

6.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein:

S/N: 09/692,844
Case: 10004382-1

3

generating the signal includes generating the first signal component, the second signal component and the third signal component using an emitting device.

7.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 6, further comprising:
establishing the reference location before determining the position.

8.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein:
establishing the reference location includes computing and storing the position of the manual imaging device at the reference location selected by a user.

9.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein:
the parameters include the position of the manual imaging device with respect to the object, a distance of the manual imaging device from the object, an angle between a surface of the object and a longitudinal axis of the manual imaging device, and movement of the manual imaging device.

10.(withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein:
the signal includes a first signal component and a second signal component;
generating the signal includes radiating the first signal component from a first position and radiating the second signal component from a second position; and
determining the position of the manual imaging device includes computing the position of manual imaging device in space using the first signal component and the second signal component.

11.(original) A manual imaging system, comprising:
an emitting device configured to emit a signal;
a receiving element arranged to receive the signal;
a memory to store image data;
an imaging mechanism configured to place colorant onto an object according to data related to the image data; and

S/N: 09/692,844
Case: 10004382-1

4

a processing device arranged to receive a representation of the signal and configured to selectively send the data to the imaging mechanism using the representation and selectively receive the image data from the memory.

12.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 11, wherein:

the imaging mechanism includes an imaging head interface arranged to receive the data and configured to generate a plurality drive signals using the data; and

the imaging mechanism includes an imaging head configured to place the colorant onto the object according to the plurality of drive signals.

13.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

a converter coupled between the receiving element and the processing device and configured to generate the representation of the signal from the signal where the representation includes a digital representation.

14.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

a display interface arranged to receive image data from the processing device and configured to generate display data from the image data; and

a display to display an image corresponding to the display data.

15.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 14, wherein:

the imaging head includes a first print head for placing cyan colorant onto the object, a second print head for placing magenta colorant onto the object, a third print head for placing yellow colorant onto the object, and a fourth print head for placing black colorant onto the object according to the plurality of drive signals.

16.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 15, further comprising:

a first sensor to measure a distance between a surface of the object and the imaging head;

S/N: 09/692,844
Case: 10004382-1

5

a second sensor to measure an acceleration of the imaging head;

a third sensor to measure an angle between an axis of the imaging head and the surface; and

a multiplexer coupled between the converter and the receiving element to selectively connect the first signal, the second signal, or the third signal to converter.

17.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 16, wherein:

the signal includes a first component, a second component, and a third component;

the receiving element includes a first receiving element, a second receiving element, and a third receiving element configured to receive, respectively the first component, the second component, and the third component; and

the processing device includes a microprocessor configured to execute instructions to selectively send the data to the imaging head interface and the image data to the display interface, and configured to execute instructions to compute a position of the imaging head with respect to a reference location and determine the suitability of the position, the distance, the acceleration, and the angle for placing the colorant onto the object.

18.(original) The manual imaging system as recited in claim 12, wherein:

the emitting device includes a first radiator located at a first position to radiate a first component of the signal and a second radiator located at a second position to radiate a second component of the signal; and

the processing device includes a configuration to determine a position in space using the first component and the second component.

19.(original) A manual imaging device, comprising:

a receiving element arranged to receive a position signal;

a memory to store image data;

an imaging head configured to place ink onto an object according to a plurality of drive signals;

S/N: 09/692,844
Case: 10004382-1

6

an imaging head interface arranged to receive data related to the image data and configured to generate the plurality of drive signals using the data;

a processor arranged to receive a representation of the position signal and configured to selectively send the data to the imaging head interface using the position signal and selectively receive the image data from the first memory.

20.(original) The manual imaging device as recited in claim 19, wherein:

the imaging head includes a first print head for placing cyan ink onto the object, a second print head for placing magenta ink onto the object, a third print head for placing yellow ink onto the object, and a fourth print head for placing black ink onto the object.

21.(original) The manual imaging device as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

a first sensor coupled to the processor and configured to measure a distance between a surface of the object and the imaging head;

a second sensor coupled to the processor and configured to measure an acceleration of the imaging head;

a third sensor coupled to the processor and configured to measure an angle between an axis of the imaging head and the surface;

a converter coupled to the processor and configured to generate the representation of the signal;

a multiplexer coupled between the converter and the receiving element to selectively connect the first signal, the second signal, or the third signal to converter;

a display interface arranged to receive image data from the processor and configured to generate display data from the image data; and

a display to display an image corresponding to the display data.

S/N: 09/692,844
Case: 10004382-1